



## USAID/REDSO/ESA Food for Peace Office



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# The Monthly Ration

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### **Darfur, Eastern Chad: Food for Peace on a monitoring mission**

Nancy Estes, Regional Food for Peace Officer, was on TDY for two weeks at the Sudanese refugee camps in eastern Chad. Of concern is that refugees are still arriving from Darfur, putting population pressure on the camps and surrounding areas. A new registration is planned for the end of October to get an updated idea of the number of refugees. Two new camps are being opened to make room for new arrivals. Environmental damage caused by cutting down trees for cooking fuel is causing stress on land. Activities have been started to teach women how to make adapted energy conservation stoves, both for the local population and refugees. WFP and other agencies are providing assistance to some local populations, whose livelihoods have been impacted by refugees. As for the nutrition situation in the camps, a special blanket supplementary feeding program is taking place for pregnant and lactating women and children, and contributing to decreased malnutrition rates and lower numbers of children in therapeutic feeding centers.



*Displaced women, southern Darfur*

## **Second Africa Regional Food for Peace Workshop, Durban, South Africa**

The REDSO/FFP office and the Regional FFP Office in South Africa jointly hosted the Second Africa Regional Food for Peace Workshop in Durban, South Africa, from October 6-8. The theme of this year's workshop was 'Innovation in Food for Peace Programs in the Field'. The workshop brought together Food for Peace Officers from the Southern, Eastern and Western regions of Africa.

The workshop was well represented with officers from the REDSO HIV/AIDS and Food Security offices, in addition to seven participants from Food for Peace Washington. The workshop provided an effective platform for discussion and clarification on issues regarding the coordination, oversight and programming of USG food aid in Africa, stressing lessons learned and new approaches to addressing food insecurity. Field FFP Peace Officers took the opportunity to clarify roles and responsibilities between FFP/W, bilateral and regional missions under the new FFP strategy of merging emergency and development programs. Also discussed were HIV/AIDS and food aid programming opportunities, in addition to other innovative approaches such as Market Assistance Programs, regional monetization and the inclusion of informal trade statistics in national food balance sheets. Several recommendations aimed at strengthening FFP's field presence and FFP program integration with USAID country programs were made at the workshop, including establishing a FFPO certification program and delegating technical reviews to Mission-led review committees.



*The Second Africa Regional FFP Workshop in Durban, South Africa*

## **Kenya: Update on the drought situation**

The GOK has since the beginning of the year distributed approximately 60,000MT of food to the 26 worst affected districts in Kenya. Since October, the WFP emergency operation (EMOP) which is from August to January, has taken over and started distributing the food under its Community Based Targeting and Distribution system. The October distribution plans for general food distribution and the expanded school-feeding program have started with beneficiary levels at 1.7 million. However, these numbers have risen, especially in the pastoralist districts, since the food security assessments were carried out in May/June. The beneficiary levels will be revised based on new assessments to take place in November/December. The October food distribution will only have maize in the food basket due to lack of other commodities. The maize is part of the GOK's donation. The USG has pledged 25,800MT of Title II food aid commodities for the drought, the commodities are expected to arrive in country by the end of November.

According to FEWS reports, the Food security in the drought affected marginal agricultural areas is not expected to improve until the harvest is realized in February 2005. The coastal areas are expected, as well, to realize lower yields as the households have been reluctant to begin farm operations until the short rains start in October/November. Therefore, there is an increasing likelihood that the EMOP will be extended beyond January 2005.

## **Uganda: Joint Assessment Mission to Karamoja Region, Uganda**

A Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) was held in Uganda to assess the impact of poorly distributed rainfall in Uganda's Karamoja Region. REDSO/FFP and USAID/Uganda participated together with others from Government of Uganda, WFP, and FEWS NET. The JAM sought to determine the impact of the poor rains on crop and livestock production. In addition it assessed current market conditions and demonstrated coping mechanisms.

The Karamoja Region of Uganda has a single cropping season, which normally begins in April and ends in September. The region is broadly classified into three livelihood zones: pastoral, agropastoral, and agricultural. Poor expected harvests in the pastoral (low crop production) areas implies that available food stocks may be

fully depleted by October and intervention measures will need to be undertaken to bridge the food gap for a population of about 125,000. If normal rains continue through September, at least half of the crop in the region may yield a harvest to last to March 2005. However, if the region receives below normal rains during this period, food stocks are not expected to last beyond December. This would increase the number of people living in pastoral and agropastoral areas in need of various levels of assistance in the region to approximately 550,000. Rainfall in the region was monitored throughout September and October, especially in areas with potentially moderate crop production, with reports of near-normal to above-normal rains in most of the region. However, the rainfall has come too late for full recovery of food crops. Follow-up food security and post-harvest assessments are anticipated.



*A girl living in Karamoja region, Uganda  
Photo: BBacon, REDSO*

### **Rwanda: Visit to a HIV/AIDS feeding Center**

“What will happen to my children when I die” was the cry of one of the mothers at a HIV/AIDS feeding center in Rwanda. Anita Oberai, REDSO/FFP, was on a joint monitoring visit to Rwanda with Steve Gilbert, FFP/Washington and Safali Venant, the USAID/Rwanda FFP Officer. The team visited the Kabutare LIFE Center run by the local church that helps to feed the HIV/AIDS affected people, all of whom are women. Leadership in Fighting Epidemics (LIFE) was a

Presidential Initiative under former President Clinton for the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Kabutare LIFE Center is one of the 86 LIFE Centers that CRS runs under its five-year \$28.1million food assistance program in Rwanda. Through their local implementing partner, CARITAS, CRS supplies oil and beans to the Kabutare LIFE Center, where the nuns help distribute a monthly ration to the beneficiaries. This food is supplemented with vegetables they grow in their own garden. The food has helped many HIV/AIDS victims to be strong enough to work in their gardens and supplement the food aid provided. The TDY Team assured the distraught woman that the program makes every effort to continue feeding the children in the program, when their parents die.

### **Eastern DRC: REDSO/FFP on a monitoring mission**

REDSO/FFP reports from Eastern DRC that the recently rehabilitated rail line from Ngwena in North Katanga province to Kindu in Maniema province now allows for regular delivery by rail of food and non-food assistance to the war affected populations in these two provinces. Rehabilitation of this last 500 km portion of the rail, funded by OFDA, now allows for rail linkage from Kindu all the way down south to Lubumbashi near the Zambia border. Lubumbashi serves as the gateway for the southern Durban corridor. WFP has been airlifting food aid to the populations in Maniema and North Katanga from air bases further east in Kalemie, Bukavu and Goma which are served from the Mombasa corridor. WFP anticipates being able to shift entirely to rail by the end of year to reach this target group. This will result in considerable cost savings to FFP.

### **Security situation remains tenuous**

Elsewhere in the Eastern DRC, REDSO/FFP reports that the security situation, while generally improved since the July 2003 peace agreement, remains tenuous with extreme variations by sub-region in the levels of insecurity. Events in June when a renegade faction temporarily occupied Bukavu precipitated a backlash against the UN presence in Bukavu, Kalemie and Lubumbashi from which the WFP and other agencies are just now recovering. The 08/14 Gatumba massacre in Burundi precipitated another wave of uncertainty as one of the factions (temporarily) pulled out of the Transition Government. Lately, rebels overran the town of Kilwa on the shores of Lake Muno, precipitating the displacement of 3,000 Congolese into Zambia. The nature of the transition in the



DRC with all of its uncertainties will require that FFP's assistance going forward be extremely nimble and able to adjust to relief, recovery and development needs all at the same time.

### **Eritrea: Mission facilitates a Title II partners dialogue in commodity management workshop**

On 18 October, 2004 the USAID Eritrea Food for Peace Officer, Luz Joseph, invited 33 representatives from seven different organizations closely involved with U.S. Government (USG) food assistance programming in Eritrea to join her in Asmara for a 4-day Commodity Management Workshop facilitated by REDSO/FFP/POD staff. In addition to the 15 participants from the Eritrean Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (ERREC), workshop attendees included members of Africare, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Eritrean Grain Board (EGB), Mercy Corps International (MCI), Samaritan's Purse International Relief (SPIR) and the World Food Program (WFP). The workshop introduced ERREC staff to the complexities of PL480 Title I and Title II food assistance programming in Eritrea. Considerable time was invested with ERREC focusing on two key Title II reference documents; Standard Provisions and Regulation 11. By the end of the workshop the participants appreciated the complexities of the USG requirements from its PVO Cooperating Sponsors in implementing a Title II program under Regulation 11.



*Luz Joseph facilitating the Commodity Management workshop, Eritrea*

### **REDSO/FFP: Holds the Second In-Service Professional Training (ISPT)**

REDSO/FFP will hold its second In-Service Professional Training, formerly known as the Internship Program, in November this year. The first training was held in March 2004. Candidates from the USAID/Pretoria and Ethiopia Missions will take part in this training. The main focus of the training will be Commodity Management with a focus on QWICR, the new web-based commodity tracking system.

#### **Cables:**

- Nairobi 03728: U.S. Mission Kenya recommendations on Upcoming Food Aid Shipments in light of Biotechnology policy concerns
- Nairobi 04091: Update on Food Assistance in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (EDRC)
- Ndjamena 01734: Refugee Assistance and Food Aid in Eastern Chad

#### **REDSO/FFP November Calendar:**

- Nancy Estes will attend the Food Aid and HIV/AIDs Workshop in Entebbe, Uganda from Nov. 1-5.
- Nancy Estes will be on a TDY to Eritrea to act as Mission Director from Nov. 10-19.
- Pamela Fessenden will travel to Burundi from Nov. 1-5.
- Pam Fessenden and Dan Suther will attend the Sudan Field Office planning meeting in Addis Nov. 8-12.
- Alex Deprez and Anita Oberai will travel to Rwanda on a monitoring mission, Nov 29 – Dec. 3.
- Brian Bacon will be on home leave during November.



**Happy Halloween**

For comments or suggestions please contact Anita Oberai, REDSO/FFP, email: [aoberai@usaid.gov](mailto:aoberai@usaid.gov)